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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 16th of July 2017, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We are discussing the story of Dhruva. Pleased by the intense penance of Dhruva, the all permeating Lord appears before him in the form of Vishnu and blesses him. Dhruva was completely purified by the sight of the Lord and he experiences a state of utmost bliss. He was completely fulfilled by the Divine presence. He then speaks in praise of the Lord. We discussed what all Dhruva has spoken in detail. Then the Lord tells Dhruva "You done a great penance. There is no one of your age who has done such a sincere and intense penance till date. I bless you with all my grace."

Though Dhruva has done such an intense penance, he still has some aspects which he did not experience and hence they remain unfulfilled. The Lord knew that Dhruva needs to be fulfilled even in those aspects to reach the Divine abode from which he will never look back. So, the Lord said, "I will put you in one of the highest positions of this creation and you will have to fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of your position. Even before you are put in that position, I want you to go back to your house, take over the rulership of the kingdom from your father at the right time, take good care of the kingdom and people, and some of your unfulfilled aspects will be fulfilled in the process as you gain the related experience. Then you will be given the position which I promised you. You will remain in that position until the end of this creation and come to me at the time of dissolution of this creation." And with those words and blessing of the Lord, Dhruva returns to his house. That is where we stopped during the last class.

Even though Dhruva reached home at the instructions of the Lord, he was a bit sad that he could not get the boon to remain in the Divine abode forever. He gained a partial taste of the Divine abode during his penance but still could not get into it completely forever. The only satisfaction he had was that he is fulfilling a direct order from the Lord. Otherwise he was not so much interested in the royal life and kingship.

Then Vidura asks a question to Maitraya "Why was Dhruva not completely satisfied even though he was put in one of the highest positions of this creation?" We know that this discussion was happening between Vidura and Lord Maitreya, and so Vidura asks this question to Maitreya.

Dhruva forgot that there were some unfulfilled aspects in him because of the experience of Divine bliss of the highest order. Though it was forgotten at that time, it will come back to him sometime later when he is not so much with the Divine. The Lord could see the unfulfilled aspects in Dhruva and hence wanted that aspects to be fulfilled before Dhruva remained in Divine abode forever.

Fulfilment of desires is an important aspect for every being. Desires should not be shunted away forcefully. Then they will definitely come back at some point.

Another aspect which Lord Maitreya tells is that the root cause of Dhruva taking to penance is his discontent of not being able to sit on his father's lap. He left his home because he was deeply hurt by his step mother's words. These were the causes for his penance to begin with. Though the cause gradually transformed later, the root cause still remains to be of non-poised nature. Hence Dhruva could not gain the complete fruit of his penance immediately. His unfulfilled desires had to be fulfilled before he can gain the fruits of his penance.

There was a well-known Sanyasi, a renunciate, whose story I told sometime back in a discourse. He used to call me to give some discourses at times. He told me once "I should not have taken up this life of a Sanyasi. Now that I have accepted this path, I cannot go back." Then I asked him "Why did you renounce everything and become a Sanyasi when you did not want this life?" He then told me his story. When he was undergoing his higher education in medicine in England, his grandfather passed away and he returned to India. Even while the funeral rituals of his grandfather were going on, his grandmother too passed away. He was in shock. Just as the final rites of his grandfather and grandmother were completed, his mother passed away which shook him further. As he completed the funeral of his mother, he was completely devastated when his father too passed away. It is most shocking for a person to lose 4 family members one after the another. This lead him to lose interest in life and he suddenly decided to renunciate everything and became a Sanyasi. He was consecrated as a Sanyasi by another Sanyasi. That Sanyasi should have asked the reason before consecration but he did not do that. Remember that if you get into a Spiritual path because you were repelled by something else, then once the repelling force goes away, then you will have no interest to stay in the path. Same is the case with penance started with some strong cause. So that Sanyasi finally told me "Having walked with this path for years, I now realise that there is no need for wordly renunciation to experience the Divine presence." The path of a Sanyasi is for one who has that nature very naturally. That is his poised state. For such ones, that path leads to Divinity. For others, it just becomes a burden.

If penance is done with some cause, it will lead to Divine grace but one cannot reach the Divine abode after that because he still has unfulfilled aspects which can pull him back any time. There are even stories of beings who went to higher planes but came back due to unfulfilled desires. For us, even sitting in penance might be very difficult. We are used to lot of comforts. One might feel like going into the cave of Durga Mountain in Nilgiris and staying there in there in the Ashram of Agasthya. The idea is fine but the question is what you will do there. Can you do penance like the habitants of that Ashram? Can you live like them with no comforts and with very little food and water? If you go there, you will feel like coming back home immediately. So, what is the use of having the desire of going there. If you naturally attain such a state gradually, then you are automatically invited and taken to such Ashrams. So, let your progress be gradual. Do not take up any drastic undertakings. Your progress to the Divine abode may take millions of life. Let it be so and let it be gradual.

Dhruva could actually gain the Divine vision by doing sincere penance for just 6 months. It is no ordinary thing. No one could see the Lord before him by doing penance for such a short duration. It

is because of his will power and intensity. His greatness cannot be denied. That is the reason he is recollected along with the 4 Kumaras in many stotras.

Dhruva then gradually realises that the Lord appearing before him after a penance of 6 months is no ordinary thing and feels that he should not be disheartened. Dhruva also realises that his thinking has changed from what it was during and immediately after the penance. He also feels that he hurt many intelligences during his penance. We discussed that due to the intensity of his penance, he neglected the body of its basic needs and as a result the presiding intelligences were hurt. Here, we should remember that intelligences are hurt during a penance only when it is done with a root cause. That is what happened when Ravana or Hiranyakasyapa did penance. They did intense penance with some desire in mind. Intelligences were never hurt when someone like Sage Vasistha did penance because he has no cause for his penance. Dhruva too had the root cause for his penance and hence the intelligences were hurt. Dhruva also realises that this was one of the reasons why he was not granted the Divine abode. Though Dhruva's penance can be said to be fruitful, it was not completely fulfilling to Dhruva himself.

So, the most important for us to realize is that one needs to be fulfilled in all aspects and experience all the planes of creation to the fullest before one can reach the highest Divine abode. One cannot neglect or reject anything and go to the higher planes. There are even great devotees who rejected some of their desires in the name of devotion and had to take births to fulfil those rejected desires before they could progress in the path. We cannot walk in the Divine world by rejecting anything.

Now going back in the story. Uttanapada was very much surprised when he comes to know that Dhruva is coming back. He was very happy when he sees Dhruva. He gives a royal welcome to Dhruva into the kingdom. Dhruva mother's and step-mother were also present there to welcome Dhruva. Uttanapada hugs Dhruva immediately on seeing him and also his step-mother Suruchi does the same as she was very happy that Dhruva followed her words and gained the touch of Divine. She blesses him to be remembered forever. Uttama, brother Dhruva also hugs Dhruva and feels very happy. Suneeti, mother of Dhruva was also happy on seeing Dhruva. The others who gathered there also praise Dhruva and tell that Dhruva has attained a state of immortality by the blessings of the Lord. In this manner, Dhruva was welcomed into the kingdom. He could see that all the roads and houses were decorated welcoming Dhruva.

(Master is reading a description of the royal welcome given to Dhruva).

Dhruva becomes the prince of the land and grows up to be the loved prince of all the people in the kingdom. Then he got married to a lady by name Brahmi. As the principle of Dhruva stands as the pole of this earth, his consort, the principle of Brahmi causes rotation to the earth globe. That is what her name means. At this point, we need to recollect that we are talking of principles and not human beings like us. Seers give us stories in this manner so that we can easily relate and remember. Just because the story is familiar with our living, we should not think that they are human beings like us. With this marriage, the aspect of time is said to be born on this planet because it is on the basis of rotation, all our time cycles are calculated and we have all the months and seasons. They have two children and we discuss about them in the next class.

-Swasthi